

## ELIZABETHAN FRIEZES.

Fig. 1

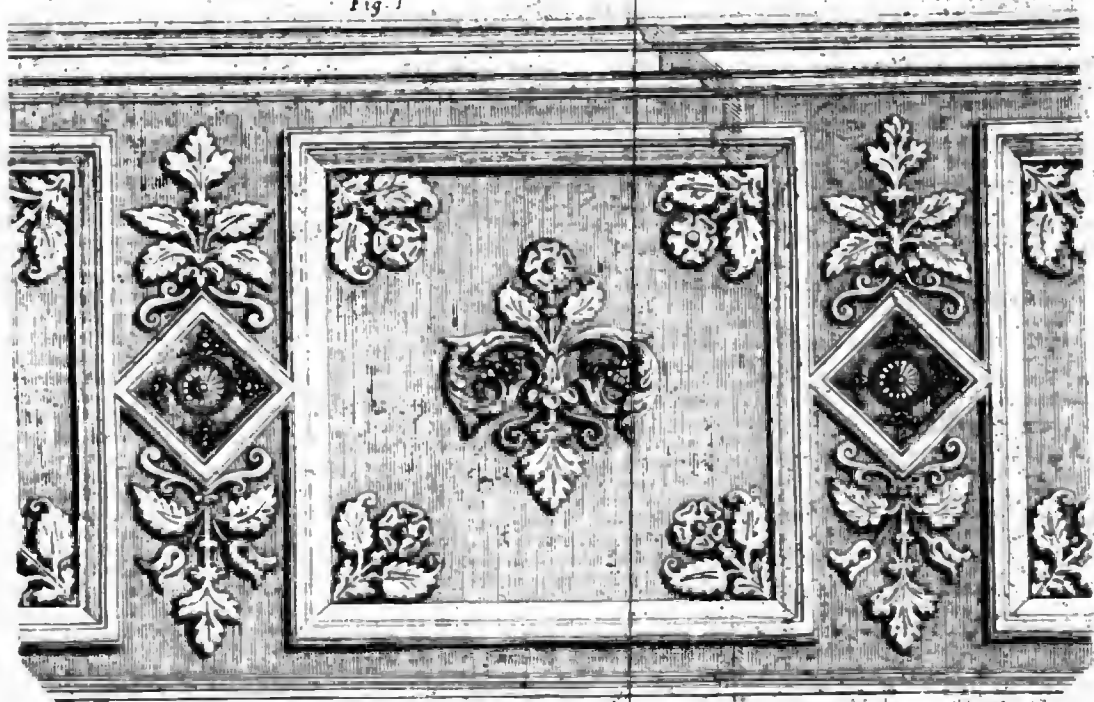


Fig. 2

C. LAING

## EXAMPLES OF ELIZABETHAN FRIEZES.

In the early Italian architecture, we find the sides of large rooms had a regular entablature, the frieze of which was of great dimensions, and adorned with boldly sculptured compartments, filled with paintings; between, were groups of children, festoons of flowers, scroll work, sometimes gilt, and an endless variety of decoration; beneath the small architrave the walls were hung with tapestry, and a

richly painted ceiling above completed the whole. The early Italian architects were painters, and even sculptors; and the junction of the three sister arts was thus made subservient to the decoration of their buildings. Scarcely any style of interior enrichment can be imagined more beautiful or in better taste, admitting greater variety in form or colour, than the one the old Italian masters introduced.

Our old Elizabethan buildings, which were imitated from these Italian palaces, present

us with an innumerable quantity of these ornamented friezes; the whole, however, at a very humble distance, both in style and execution, from the Italian. In the common examples, these friezes contain shields, and where the compartments are numerous, for want of a better filling up, or a more skilful artist, the figures of a horse, a bull, a camel, a lion, &c. &c., are introduced; these figures are apparently copied from the book prints of the time. The great hall at Aston has a frieze, adorned with